



**SEIUHealthcare®**  
United for Quality Care

March 9th, 2023  
Mary Murrell, Direct Support Assistant  
Mosaic  
District 1199 New England  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Mary Murrell, I live in Windsor, and I am a Direct Support Assistant (DSA) at Mosaic. I've come before you today to ask that you allocate funding for group home services so group home workers like me can have higher wages, a pension and health insurance.

I have worked in this field for 27 years and still love what I do. I love interacting with clients. I get to help them meet their goals, work in the field being hands on, and being able to advocate for the clients that aren't able to for themselves. I love to see them smile and witness the happiness in their eyes. I love and will continue to go above and beyond for my clients like I've always done. Some of the many tasks I do at work include providing them safety while out in the community, I cook and bathe them to make sure all their hygiene is done, and I engage them in activities. I bring them to all their medical appointments ensuring they receive the best care. I work a lot of the holidays so that I can provide them with special meals and engage them in many leisure activities relating to fun and culture.

Although I enjoy caring for my individuals, the work I do is far from easy. I show up during the hard times as well as the good. I worked through covid where we lost 3 individuals and had to ensure those that were still here were safe and healthy. With inflation and the lack of pay increases; I am unable to retire due to having no money saved. I have no security for my future and am struggling to always make ends meet. My utility bills are rising, and the price of groceries will soon be out of budget for me. I am not even able to do activities I used to enjoy like taking my grandchildren out due to the confines of my budget.

As staff the level of respect for what we do and the care we provide is terribly low. We deserve benefits and a pay that matches the difficulty of our jobs and the way we go out of our way to care for our most vulnerable. Allocating more funding will allow me to be able to receive the same quality of care I provide, when it's my turn to be taken care of. We deserve benefits like higher wages, a pension fund and affordable health insurance.

Thank you.